

Appl. No. 09/703,623
Amdt. Dated: December 31, 2003
Reply to Office Action of 1 July 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An ink transfer mechanism for printing press including a supply roller to collect ink from a liquid supply, a primary flow metering device to produce a primary flow of said ink carried by said roller, and a secondary flow metering device spaced from said primary flow metering device to provide a continuous and constant secondary flow on said roller, said secondary flow metering device including a blade portion, whereby a difference in the flow of said liquid between said metering devices is supplied to a flow output.
2. deleted
3. (original) An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said secondary flow metering device is biased towards said supply roller.
4. (currently amended) An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said secondary flow metering device is movable relative to said supply roller between an operative position which provides a predetermined separation distance between said blade portion and an outer surface of said supply roller, and an inoperative retracted position.
5. (currently amended) An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said blade portion includes a contoured surface portion.
6. (original) An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said contoured surface portion is arcuate.
7. (original) An ink transfer mechanism according to claim 3, wherein a predetermined magnitude of said separation distance is maintained by an element located between said exterior surface and said blade portion.

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8. (currently amended) A method of metering ink from a supply roller of a printing press including the steps of : metering of a flow of said ink onto said supply roller by application of a primary metering device to produce a primary flow, applying a blade portion of a secondary metering device to said supply roller to metering of said primary flow transferred by said supply roller by application of a secondary metering device to produce a secondary flow on said roller, directing a difference between said primary flow and said secondary flow from a surface of said supply roller to produce a tertiary flow as an output.
9. (previously amended) A secondary flow metering device to meter the return flow of ink supply of a printing press comprising a body and a blade portion connected to said body, said blade portion being supported by said body to engage a primary flow of ink on a supply roller to divide said flow into a secondary flow for return to said supply and a tertiary flow to a flow output.
10. (previously cancelled)
11. (previously amended) A metering device according to claim 9, wherein an end portion of said blade portion is arcuate.
12. (previously amended) The metering device of claim 9, wherein said blade portion includes a contoured surface having an entrance region, a middle region, and an exit region.
13. (original) A metering device according to claim 12, whercin said entrance region contains a shallow angle of less than 20 degrees with respect to an adjacent surface.
14. (previously amended) A metering device according to claim 9, whercin an end portion of said blade portion includes a corner region to promote separation of ink flow along said end portion.